

# *Black Hawk County*

## 2008-2012 RESOURCE ENHANCEMENT AND PROTECTION PLAN

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## **Background**

The Resource Enhancement and Protection (REAP) Act received final approval in May of 1989 with overwhelming support. Since the beginning of the program, \$194,102,762 has been allocated towards REAP programs such as open space preservation, land conservation, land management, historical preservation, open space acquisition and development, native roadside vegetation maintenance, and soil and water enhancement. In the same year the REAP Program was created, various members of local organizations joined together to create the Black Hawk County REAP Committee. Each county was required to have a REAP Committee for the review and approval of REAP grant applications. In the years immediately following the REAP Act of 1989, the REAP Committees remained strong and diligently worked towards improving or protecting the natural areas in their county. Unfortunately, during the mid-90s the REAP Committees became less involved in the review process and the main responsibility of the former Chairperson was to sign-off for the grant applications.

In recent years, Black Hawk County has realized the importance of having an involved REAP Committee for the revitalization and preservation of its natural areas. The Black Hawk County Conservation Board took proactive steps to redevelop a fully functional REAP Committee and adopt a new 5-Year REAP Plan. Financial support for the development of the Plan was provided by Cedar Falls, Waterloo, and Black Hawk County. The Plan is meant to identify critical areas throughout Black Hawk County that will be eligible for future REAP funding and plan for them accordingly.

## **Black Hawk County REAP Committee**

The REAP Committee was initially responsible for creating the 1990-1995 REAP Plan, which identified the recent trends of recreation and wildlife activities and the areas of Black Hawk County that were most in need of additional REAP funds. The purpose of the Black Hawk County REAP Committee was to devise a plan to use the financial resources of the REAP Act to achieve the lofty goals set forward by the 1989 Iowa General Assembly; to develop a conservation/land ethic and to improve the quality of life of the citizens of Black Hawk County through the preservation of a diverse natural environment.

Currently, the REAP Committee meets annually to determine the upcoming REAP projects and address the critical environmental needs in the County. Special meetings may also be held to make revisions to the REAP Plan. The Black Hawk County REAP Committee membership includes, but is not limited to:

Ty Graham – Prairie Rapid Paddlers  
Don Shoultz – Local citizen  
Phil Thomas – Local citizen  
Richard King – Black Hawk County Engineering Department  
Kirk Henderson – UNI Roadside Program

Mark Ripplinger – Cedar Falls Park Division  
Paul Huting – Waterloo Leisure Services  
Sue Schauls – Local citizen  
Eric Sage – Farm Bureau  
Joel Haack – UNI College of Natural Sciences  
Arlene Hahn – Dunkerton Parks  
Billie Hemmer – Cedar Valley Arboretum  
Craig Ritland – Local citizen  
Rebecca Kauten – Black Hawk SWCD  
Billie Bailey – Grout Museum  
Bob Morgan – Cedar Trails Partnership

### **REAP Planning Process**

The development of the REAP Plan was received with much enthusiasm from numerous organizations within the County. An initial REAP Planning Committee was formed by inviting representatives of the Board of Supervisors, Black Hawk County Conservation Board, Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), school principal/superintendents within the county, mayors within the county, city parks departments within the county, historical organizations within the county, environmental organizations within the county, and outdoor recreation groups within the county. At the initial meeting, 16 representatives were in attendance with each participating member helping to develop the Goals and Focus Areas to be included in the Plan. Members were also allowed to propose project(s) within the county that would be eligible for REAP funding within the next five years. All proposed projects correspond with numbers 4-8 of the Black Hawk County Land Use Policy Statements (*see Attachment 1*). The proposed list of projects was then classified by each Focus Area and are included in the latter portion of this plan.

Next, a Public Input Session was held at the Hartman Reserve Nature Center with 17 community members in attendance. The input session was advertised in the local papers, all City Halls within the county, and all libraries within the county. The intent of the input session was to invite individual community members to participate in the planning process and learn more about the REAP program. Participants were asked to fill out comment sheets regarding the Plan and invited to become a member of the REAP Planning Committee.

Two written comments were received as part of the input session. The first comment related to increasing the recreational activities on the Cedar River which is addressed in the 'Future Initiatives' section. The second comment supported the urban storm water projects with the purpose of making Black Hawk County a good example for other communities to follow. This comment/project is addressed in the 'Focus Areas' section.

After all comments were received from the Public Input Session, REAP Planning Committee members met again to review the draft Plan and elect the new REAP



Committee members. At a final REAP Committee meeting, the Committee developed the rules and regulations for future meetings and approve the final Plan.

The final plan will be made available to the general public, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and those agencies in Black Hawk County which spend funds available from the REAP program: Black Hawk County Conservation Department, Black Hawk County Soil and Water District, and the Cities of Black Hawk County.

### **REAP Programs and Local Funding**

A detailed list of historical REAP funding can be found in *Attachment 2*.

City Parks and Open Space (15% of REAP funds): This money is available to cities through competitive grants. From 1990 through 2007, Cedar Falls, Dunkerton, Evansdale, Hudson and Waterloo have received Open Spaces Grants totaling over \$1,880,000. Many of these projects were multi-phased, of which the largest include the Big Woods Lake Recreation Area that totaled 7 Phases including acquisition, trail development, and campground development. Black Hawk County is very fortunate to have an extensive trail network that has been highly utilized by county residents and surrounding visitors (*see Attachment 3*).

Conservation Education: A five-member board implements the Conservation Education Program (CEP) and they annually allocate approximately \$350,000 in grants for conservation education in Iowa. Grant recipients include The Friends of Hartman Reserve, Iowa Academy of Science, and the University of Northern Iowa for after school programs, workshops, and educational initiatives.

County Conservation (20% of REAP funds): This money is available to counties for land easements or acquisition, capital improvements, stabilization and protection of resources, repair and upgrading of facilities, environmental education, and equipment. Allocations totaling \$575,979 have been directly allocated to Black Hawk County Conservation Department on the Per County or Per Population basis. Additional funds under the competitive grant process have been awarded for the Black Hawk Creek Greenbelt Addition and the Cedar Valley Lakes Project Additions.

DNR Administration: After the \$350,000 Conservation Education allotment, 1% of the remaining funds are transferred to the DNR to help defray costs of REAP administration.

DNR Land Management (9% of REAP funds): This money is available to the DNR for development and management of state conservation lands. This account serves as a substitute for the state park user permit receipts, which were terminated by the legislature when REAP was enacted. To date, George Wyth State Park has been the only recipient of REAP Land Management funds in Black Hawk County, totaling over \$278,000 for projects such as new park amenities or structural repairs.

Historical Resource Development Program (5% of REAP funds): The State Historical Society in the Department of Cultural Affairs runs this program. Grants are available to private individuals and businesses, as well as to non-profit organizations and agencies of Certified Local Governments. Various individuals and public organizations have received a total of \$189,595 for projects throughout Black Hawk County since 1990. Organizations such as the Cedar Falls Historical Society and the Waterloo Grout Museum have been recipients of the largest amounts of funding in the county (\$27,473 and \$99,794 respectively).

Open Space Acquisition and Development (28% of REAP funds): This money is allocated to the DNR for state acquisition and development of lands and waters. George Wyth received funds from the DNR in 1998 for trail development.

Roadside Vegetation (3% of REAP funds): This money is available through the Department of Transportation for state, county, and city management of roadside vegetation. Numerous public agencies or organizations in Black Hawk County have received funds to go towards roadside/trail enhancement plantings or informative workshops. To date, allocated funds total over \$202,000.

Soil and Water Enhancement (20% of REAP funds): These funds are available to landowners for soil and water conservation and enhancement projects and practices. The Black Hawk County Soil and Water Conservation District received allocations for practices from 1990 through 2006 and allocations for Forestry and Native Vegetation from 1992 through 2006, with funds totaling \$115,137.

### **Black Hawk County Resource Inventory**

#### **Recreation Areas:**

*State:* George Wyth Memorial State Park at 909 acres is the only state park in Black Hawk County, and has been designated as a National Urban Wildlife Sanctuary. The park also includes lake and river fishing, swimming, camping, modern showers, picnicking, four open shelters and one enclosed shelter, hiking, bicycling, boating, playground equipment, cross-country skiing, snowmobiling, and restrooms are available. The Park has several water areas: Brinker Lake (120 acres, open for power boating), George Wyth Lake (75 acres, no-wake lake with handicap accessible fishing pier), Fisher Lake (40 acre natural lake), Alice Wyth Lake ("Lake Alice" is 60 acres, electric motors only), and the Cedar River. Many areas in Black Hawk County are cooperatively owned by the State of Iowa and Black Hawk County; however, the only state managed area is George Wyth Memorial State Park.

*County:* Black Hawk County is fortunate to have a vast array of publicly owned open spaces (*see Attachment 4*). The County Conservation Department currently manages nearly 8,000 acres of parks, open spaces, or wildlife areas in and around Black Hawk County. Although not all parcels are under Black Hawk County ownership, cooperative

efforts of Black Hawk County, the State of Iowa, the Waterloo Rotary Club, and individual land owners makes access to these scenic areas possible.

The largest tract of land that the Conservation Department manages is Black Hawk Park at nearly 1,500 acres. This County Park is one of the largest Parks in Iowa. It forms a greenbelt along the Cedar River from Cedar Falls to Washington-Union Bridge, 4 miles to the north. It also adjoins Railroad Lake and Beaver Creek Access to the west. Amenities include a campground with full hookups available, picnic areas with fire grills, showers, open shelters, cabins for rent as well as river and creek boat access.

The second largest area under County management is the Brett Klima Wildlife Area located north of La Porte City. This area offers 753 acres of wildlife habitat with forest and wetland hunting allowed. Additional acquisitions may allow for the expansion of this natural area. This area also allows river and creek access.

The third largest area under County management is Hickory Hills Park at 723 acres. Although established in Tama County in 1969, the Black Hawk County Conservation Board owns and manages the area. The Park is located just 12 miles south of Waterloo. Amenities include a campground with full hookups available, picnic areas with fire grills, showers, open shelters, cabins for rent as well as access to the 39 acre Casey Lake.

Another vital area under County management is the Hartman Reserve Nature Center. The Center is a wooded isle located in the heart of metropolitan Black Hawk County. This 300 acre, natural area extends from an upland bluff, overlooking the Cedar River Valley, down to the banks of the Cedar River. Within the forest are a series of gravel pits, backwater, vernal depressions, a small prairie, and an open meadow. The Reserve includes an Interpretive Center that is perched on a bluff above the River in the midst of this upland forest. Year-round public educational activities are planned for children and adults with rental space also available for private parties.

*City:* The Waterloo/Cedar Falls metro area also offers numerous trails, parks, and open spaces for public enjoyment (*see Attachment 5*). The City of Cedar Falls Parks Department manages 35 parks (over 1,100 acres), an 18 hole golf course, two 9 hole golf courses, one aquatic center, two city pools, and 30 miles of paved recreation trails.

The City of Waterloo Leisure Services manages 52 parks (approximately 3,000 acres), with the largest being the Leonard Katoski Greenbelt at 1,100 acres. The Greenbelt includes an 8 mile stretch of the Black Hawk Creek, a prairie, a series of lakes, and miles of trails for biking, hiking, and cross country skiing.

Offering a different type of recreation, the Riverview Recreation Area serves as the primary ATV Park in the Cedar Valley. The entire Recreation Area totals 395 acres with 180 being designated strictly to ATV use. Other amenities include fishing, boat access, recreational trails and picnicking. Additional recreation activities are provided by Waterloo's three golf courses, two city pools, a sports arena, and 36 miles of paved trails.

The cities of Hudson, Janesville, La Porte City, Evansdale, and Dunkerton also provide neighboring city parks, pools, golf courses, and other recreational facilities.

#### State Recognized Preserve Areas:

*Cedar Hills Sand Prairie:* is a 36-acre preserve containing a sand prairie, sedge meadow, and small fen. It is located ten miles northwest of Cedar Falls in western Black Hawk County. Formerly known as 'Mark Sand Prairie,' it has been managed by the University of Northern Iowa Biological Preserves since its discovery in 1969. It was acquired by the Iowa chapter of The Nature Conservancy in 1985 from Wayne Mark. The preserve was dedicated in 1985 for its biological and geological features. Located in the Iowan Surface landform region, the preserve sits atop a broad sandy divide between the Cedar River and Beaver Creek, and is one of a series of Aeolian (wind-formed) sandy ridges found along the Cedar River valley.

*Casey's Paha:* is a 175-acre preserve that highlights a half-mile portion of a 2.5-mile-long elongated hill known as a 'Paha.' It is located within the Hickory Hills Recreation Area in northeastern Tama County, 13 miles south of Waterloo. This 665-acre area was purchased in 1974 by the Black Hawk County Conservation Board. The western third was dedicated as a geological preserve in 1989 and named after the Caseys, an Irish family that originally settled in the area. The gentle hills provide most of the topographic relief in a region of the state known as the Iowan Surface landform region. The accumulation of wind-blown silt (loess) topping the narrow elongate ridges reaches forty feet deep in places.

*Hartman Bluff State Reserve:* is a 46-acre area containing the most highly natural land within the 300-acre Hartman Reserve. Dedicated in 2004, the preserve contains both upland forest and bottomland forest along the Cedar River within the Cedar Falls/Waterloo metropolitan area that have been relatively undisturbed since the 1930s. Their preservation in an urban setting is enhanced by interpretation through educational programming provided by the Hartman Reserve Nature Center located just outside of the preserve.

#### Locally Recognized Preserve Areas:

*Natural Areas Reserve Program:* Although together a total of 6,388.38 acres (736 parcels) of natural areas have been set aside in Black Hawk County, under the Forest Reserve Program, almost 5,033 acres of land in private ownership have been put in a protective status. The second largest set-aside area is Open Prairies, totaling 1,066 acres. Smaller preserve areas include 132 acres of Forest Cover, 85 acres of Wetlands, 42 acres of Native Prairie, and almost 30 acres of Wildlife Habitat. Some of these private landowners have been assisted in their efforts to protect and create natural areas by the Black Hawk County Conservation Board, Iowa Department of Natural Resources, and several local private groups such as Pheasants Forever, Ducks Unlimited, Izaak Walton League, and the Cedar Valley Wetlands Foundation.

*University of Northern Iowa Biological Preserves System:* The University of Northern Iowa (UNI) Preserves system consists of 7 tracts of land of approximately 76 acres on-campus and 2 off-campus areas with an area of about 77 acres.

On-campus sites include the 8 acre University Avenue preserve, the UNI Prairie Preserve; a 9.2 acre reconstructed tall grass prairie, The 7.3 acre Campus lowland Forest Preserve, a reforestation and riparian succession research area, the South Main Street Preserve, 7 acres along Dry Run Creek, and the 35 acre Upland Forest Preserve. Off-campus is Matala Preserve, a 75 acre native lowland forest on the floodplain of the Cedar River and the 2.5 acre Clay Prairie Preserve, a small remnant tall grass prairie in Butler County.

The UNI Preserves system provides students and the public an opportunity to observe the reconstruction, management, and preservation of these lands as well as serving the University's mission for research and education.

*Cedar Valley Arboretum and Botanical Gardens:* Started in 1995, the Arboretum has grown to 75 acres of leased land from Hawkeye Community College. The Arboretum remains vibrant to this day with the help of volunteers and financial donations.

#### Cultural Resources:

*Grout Museum:* Throughout its 45-year history, the Grout Museum of History & Science, widely acknowledged as one of the cornerstones of culture in Northeast Iowa, has worked to fulfill its mission to collect, preserve and interpret cultural and natural history of the region. The museum, named after Henry Whittemore Grout, was completed in 1956 and opened to the public as a private not-for-profit museum. Drawing from the museum's extensive collection, the museum features many permanent exhibits, including the Grout Planetarium, and ever-changing temporary exhibits. Also, an extensive addition to the Grout Museum is underway which will honor the service and sacrifice of all Iowa veterans from the Civil War to the present. See *Attachment 4* for museum location.

*Waterloo Center for the Arts:* The Center for the Arts is a municipal non-profit institution dedicated to fostering community awareness and appreciation of the arts by acquiring, preserving, exhibiting, and interpreting significant works of art. Operates under the auspices of the Waterloo Cultural and Arts Commission, the Center and its programs reflect the City's commitment to and support of arts and culture. As an expansion to the Center for the Arts, the Phelps Youth Pavilion will address several critical needs for the Arts Center. It will move the nationally recognized Junior Art Gallery out of the basement, double the space and create a more secure, accessible area for the thousands of school children who visit each year. The new area will include Junior Art Galleries, a Digital Arts Lab, a new Ceramics Studio, and increased storage for the growing permanent art collection.

*African American Historical and Cultural Museum:* Although not fully developed yet, at the Museum's future site now stands a boxcar housing some of the future exhibits. Many

of the African American community first moved to Iowa in a boxcar to work for the Illinois Central Railroad. The boxcar was also their first home in Waterloo. This museum will showcase the history and culture of the African American residents of Waterloo.

*Cedar Falls Historical Society:* In June of 1962, the first meeting of what was then called the Historical Committee was held. The group was appointed by the Cedar Falls Chamber of Commerce to “establish an organization to preserve and procure items of historical value to the community.” As the 1960s progressed, The Dempster house (now known as the Victorian House) was purchased as the Society’s first museum. Since then the Society has saved numerous buildings from demolition, and later restored them into museums. These museums include, but are not limited to, the Ice House Museum, the George Wyth House and Viking Pump Museum, the Behrens-Rapp Station, and the Little Red School House.

*Hearst Center for the Arts:* The Center for the Arts was opened to the public in 1989 after being bequeathed to the City of Cedar Falls in 1983. With hundreds of works by local and regional artists, the permanent collection provides a fascinating perspective on Iowa, the Midwest and the nation. The Center also inspires local art through dazzling exhibitions, exciting performances and programs, and stimulating classes and workshops. As part of the Center, the Hearst Sculpture Garden also features works of art by selected Iowa sculptors that capture the complementary beauties of natural and created art.

*University Museum:* The museum at the University of Northern Iowa was started in 1892 through the individual collecting by faculty members of artifacts and specimens for use in the classroom. These collections were initiated by those in the disciplines of geology and biology, but were later expanded to include history and anthropology. The Museum has always been an educational resource for the general public as well as the campus. The University Museum is one of only five major natural history museums within the State of Iowa, and one of an even smaller number featuring collections with a global perspective.

*Silos and Smokestacks:* The seed of a dream sprouted in 1991 when Silos & Smokestacks was formed. In 1996 the dream bloomed as a National Heritage Area. Northeast Iowa has a unique experience to offer all age groups of visitors and Iowans. The non-profit Silos & Smokestacks organization was created to support development of regional heritage tourism and share the story of American agriculture. Silos & Smokestacks is a 37-county region in Northeast Iowa covering over 20,000 square miles. A federally designated National Heritage Area, it functions as an Affiliated Area of the National Park Service.

#### Water:

The major water resources of Black Hawk County include the Cedar River, the Wapsipinicon River, and Black Hawk Creek. A complete map of the large and small watersheds is shown on *Attachment 6*. The floodplain and the valley of the Cedar River is home to most of the open spaces and recreational areas in the county. Many of the remaining natural areas in the county are sheltered by the Wapsipinicon River, Black Hawk Creek, and Beaver Creek.

The only major natural lake in public ownership is the 40-acre Fisher Lake. Several manmade lakes have been created along the Cedar River as a result of road construction and gravel mining. The larger lakes include Wyth Lake in George Wyth Park, Alice Wyth Lake, Brinker Lake, and Big Woods Lake. Other smaller non-natural lakes include Lake Meyer in Deerwood Park, Martin Lake in the Leonard Katoski Greenbelt, and Casey Lake in Hickory Hills Park (two miles into Tama County).

### Soils:

The soils and drainage patterns of Black Hawk County have provided an excellent base for the intensive Midwest agriculture. There are seven major soil types existing in Black Hawk County (*see Attachment 7*).

*Dinsmore-Klingmore-Maxmore:* Nearly level and gently sloping, well drained to poorly drained silty soils formed in loess; on uplands.

*Dinsdale-Klinger-Maxfield:* Nearly level to moderately sloping, well drained to poorly drained silty soils formed in loess and the underlying glacial till; on uplands.

*Kenyon-Clyde-Floyd:* Nearly level to strongly sloping, moderately well drained to poorly drained loamy soils formed in loamy material and the underlying glacial till; on uplands.

*Readlyn-Tripoli:* Nearly level and very gently sloping, somewhat poorly drained and poorly drained loamy soils formed in loamy material and the underlying glacial till; on uplands.

*Sparta-Finchford-Saude:* Nearly level to moderately steep, excessively drained to well drained sandy and loamy soils formed in eolian (carried by the wind) sands or in eolian sands and the underlying glacial till; on uplands and terraces.

*Coland-Spillville:* Nearly level and gently sloping, excessively drained to poorly drained loamy soils formed in loamy alluvial (deposited by water) sediments; on bottom lands and terraces.

*Marquis-Clyde-Floyd:* Nearly level, poorly drained silty and loamy soils formed in silty and loamy alluvial sediments; on bottom lands and terraces.

## **Goals and Focus Areas**

### Goals

- 1. To meet the outdoor recreational needs of the citizens of Iowa in Black Hawk County, while encouraging land stewardship, education and preservation of existing and future assets.***

2. *To be consistent with and to implement the goals and objectives outlined in the Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan (SCORP) and the Iowa Open Spaces Plan.*

#### Focus Areas

1. Expand, acquire, and develop open spaces for the purpose of:
  - a.) Recreation
  - b.) Wildlife Habitat
  - c.) Preservation
  - d.) Protection of environmentally sensitive areas
2. Improve water quality through promotion and development of urban and rural best management practices and education.
3. Develop water and land trail opportunities as supported by statewide, regional and local planning initiatives.
4. Expand:
  - a.) Environmental education
  - b.) Roadside vegetation opportunities
  - c.) Historic preservation initiatives.
5. Expand and improve vertical infrastructure.

#### Potential Focus Area Projects

##### **Focus Area 1: Expand, acquire, and develop open spaces for the purpose of:**

- a.) Recreation**
  - b.) Wildlife Habitat**
  - c.) Preservation**
  - d.) Protection of environmentally sensitive areas**
- *Create Wildlife Conversationalist Position-* The proposed position would coordinate the management of wildlife habitat, preserve native species and protect environmentally sensitive areas on public and private lands across the county.
  - *Complete Development of the Big Woods Lake Campground-* The 11.68 acre campground will be outside of the 100 year floodplain and provide 52 full-hook up sites for recreational vehicles and camper/trailer units including the availability of wireless internet. In addition, two cabins will be constructed as well as a 24' x 36' shower/restroom facility, play area and provisions for tent camping. Access to the campground will be provided via Lake Street, which intersects with Big Woods Road to the west of the campground site. The Big Woods Lake Recreation Area is located



in the Cedar Falls City limits, however, the campground will be managed by the Black Hawk County Conservation Board. A long-term 28E agreement defining management/maintenance responsibilities between these agencies is in development. Upon full operation of the campground the Conservation Board may establish a Park Residence on the east side of the campground.

- *Create food plots on private/public property for wildlife habitat-* No specific properties have been identified to house food plots yet, but the Conservation Board will develop them as they come available.
- *Acquire land for wildlife habitat adjacent to Klima Wildlife Area-* Just north of La Porte City, the Klima Wildlife Area currently covers 753 acres and is managed by the County Conservation Board. Currently, 177 acres adjacent to the Wildlife Area is in the Conservation Reserve Program (CRP) but has the potential to be sold in the near future. Since the area has been in CRP it contains a vast amount of native prairie grasses with large wildlife habitats in place.
- *Acquire land for the Brandon Road Project-* Adjacent to the Klima Wildlife Area, a privately owned 163 acre tract of land may be up for acquisition within the near future. This tract of land will become known as the *Brandon Road Project*. Excavation of this area will go towards the development of bridges over the Cedar River and Wolf Creek. As a result of construction efforts, this area will become a wetland area and serve as a valuable addition to the Wildlife Area.
- *Explore the possibility of including the Cedar Island Wildlife Area in the State Preserves System-* Currently, the County Conservation Board has contracted with the University of Northern Iowa to establish a graduate project to do an inventory and management plan for the Area. If the inventory results are favorable, application for a State Preserve Status may follow.
- *Purchase property to the southwest of Big Woods Lake-* In recent years Big Woods Lake Recreation Area has undergone significant improvements in trails and camping accommodations. Acquiring additional land adjacent to the Lake will allow for continued expansion and preservation of the public recreation area.
- *Continue to purchase flood buyout properties in Cedar City and Sherwood Park-* Numerous properties along the Cedar River are in the floodplain and therefore are prone to flooding. The cities of Waterloo and Cedar Falls will continue to buyout the flood prone properties on a volunteer basis and develop them into parkland that will have minimal impacts from flooding.
- *Acquire lands along Cedar River, West Fork of the Cedar River and the Wapsipinicon River-* The main purpose for acquiring lands along the major rivers in the region is for buffering of open space and scenic areas. Although no specific parcels of land are planned to be purchased at this time, negotiations will be sought should land become available.
- *Expand and develop Cedar Valley Arboretum-* Currently, the Arboretum covers 75 acres of land including a Botanical Center. Although the Arboretum's programs remain strong, expansion and additional development of the site will allow for more programs and exhibits for its many visitors of all ages.

- *Urban park land-* Through neighborhood redevelopment projects, flood buyouts, or new construction, cities in the metropolitan area will strive to create inviting public open spaces where all citizens can relax or recreate.
- *Second phase of Riverview Recreation Area-* Currently the 400-acre Riverview Recreation Area amenities include a boat ramp, fishing habitats, ATV park, wetlands area, recreation trail, and picnic shelters. Future enhancements include a fishing jetty, asphaltting the recreation trail and developing a natural beach area.
- *Increase boating amenities of the new dam including boathouse/marina improvements-* The new bladder dam being constructed as part of the River Renaissance project will allow for additional boating activities on the Cedar River through Waterloo. Additional boating amenities will encourage more boaters to view the Cedar River as a boating destination.
- *Marks Park development-* In conjunction with the River Renaissance project currently under construction in downtown Waterloo, the open space on the west side of the Park Avenue Bridge will be developed into Marks Park. The Park will serve as a rest stop along the Riverwalk Loop.
- *Development of handicapped accessible hunting areas-* These projects are not site specific, but meant to increase the availability of hunting areas to persons with disabilities.
- *Purchase drainage corridors and wetlands-* To preserve natural buffer areas and ecologically sensitive areas, the County Conservation Board and individual cities within the county will strive to purchase drainage corridors and wetlands for conservation purposes.

**Focus Area 2: Improve water quality through promotion and development of urban and rural best management practices and education.**

- *Create urban and rural filter strips*
  - *Around open bodies of water-* To prevent runoff and other pollution from contaminating the major water bodies in the county, the cities in Black Hawk County and the County Conservation board will strive to purchase easements or plots of land adjacent to the water to act as a buffer from developments and farming.
  - *Around greenbelts-* Like open bodies of water, greenbelts are environmentally sensitive areas that need pollution protection. The cities in Black Hawk County and the Conservation Board will strive to purchase easements or plots of land adjacent to greenbelts for buffering purposes.
- *Permeable paving, swales, and rain gardens*
  - *Student demonstration projects (school greenhouse)-* One student greenhouse project has been successful at Logan Middle School. Additional funding will be sought to continue the greenhouse program at Logan Middle School and start additional programs at other schools in the metropolitan area.

- *Recognize projects that incorporate best management practices that will work in Black Hawk County-* A program that would help developers/cities control storm water runoff through infiltration-based best practices such as rain gardens, bio swales, etc.
- *Establish a zero (or close) runoff initiative in Black Hawk County-* The cities or county would establish a zero-runoff initiative utilizing infiltration based practices for rain to infiltrate the ground rather than enter storm sewers through the use of permeable paving, buffers, etc.
- *Create a list of best practices that are feasible in specific areas of the metro area-* Additional research will be needed to establish the various types of soils and water table characteristics in Black Hawk County and the suitability for utilizing best management practices accordingly. Ideally a map of the county would be created showing the types of soils and water table characteristics in specific areas with a list of best management practices feasible in each area.
- *Create a campaign that ties everything back to land/water*
  - *Urban/residential/business:*
    - *Insets on storm sewer-* Storm sewer covers will be designed with an inset to identify them as storm sewers and advise citizens not to dispose of household waste/chemicals in the storm sewer.
    - *Create a logo that can be used and recognized throughout the metro area-* As part of a metro-wide initiative, citizens and organizations would be educated on the importance of not polluting the land or water that everyone depends on. The initiative would include creating a logo to be placed on storm sewers or environmentally sensitive areas to identify that what is disposed of in these areas will flow directly into the surrounding water bodies.
  - *Rural/farm:*
    - *Educate rural residents and farmers how to prevent groundwater and runoff pollution-*As part of an education initiative, the Conservation Department would provide rural residents with educational brochures describing typical water pollution sources and preventable measures that can be easily accomplished.
- *Utilize REAP and local funding sources for 'green projects' -* 'Green' initiatives will be an important component for new development in Black Hawk County for the purpose of energy savings and environmentally friendly practices. New projects in the county may be modified with 'greener' amenities to serve as an example to other developments.
- *Increase focus on the impact of Ethanol on farm practices and educate absentee land owners*
  - *Promote other forms of alternative energy-* A long standing goal of the County is to reduce the dependence on non-renewable energy sources. Alternative forms of energy have been recognized for decades but have come

to the forefront of technology in recent years. The County and cities within Black Hawk County will continue to support any public or private efforts to utilize alternate forms of energy in new developments or reconstruction efforts.

- *Provide incentives for achieving minimum practice regulations (develop regulations)*- This project would include developing farming regulations and giving land owners incentives to meet minimum practice regulations. While these regulations are not likely to be required, incentives would encourage farmers to comply with the regulations voluntarily.
- *Discourage marginal farming/taking land out of CRP*- With the increasing demand for biofuel-based crops, land owners may be enticed to take land out of conservation or to farm marginal areas. As part of the incentives project, farmers would be discouraged from farming marginal areas in the proposed farming regulations.
- *Try to change the use of the Soil and Water Conservation funds to be allocated in urban areas (currently not funded)*- Soil and Water Conservation funds are not currently allocated to urban areas although, current initiatives may allow for the change in allocation in the near future. The Cities within Black Hawk County and the Conservation Board continue to support the funding in urban areas to support best management practices.
- *Promote environmental quality and natural resources as economic development incentive*- With the assistance of REAP funding, cities and the county would be able to provide economic incentives for businesses that show support for environmental quality or preserving the natural resources that are abundant in Black Hawk County.

**Focus Area 3: Develop water and land trail opportunities as supported by statewide, regional and local planning initiatives.**

- *Development and construction of Prairie Rapids White Water Park*- Located in Cedar Falls, the white water park will utilize many of the planned or existing water features adjacent to Gateway Park via the Cedar River. The new water park will also complement the riverfront projects currently being constructed in downtown Waterloo.
- *Safety modifications of low head dams*- With the increase in water trails along the Cedar River, low-head dams are a safety concern for boaters and water enthusiasts. Making safety modifications to the dams will allow better use of the river and attract more visitors to the area.
- *Development and construction of the downtown white water course in Waterloo*- Several components of the River Renaissance project include water access for paddlers or special dam components for paddlers in anticipation of the white water course through Waterloo. This project, in combination with the other Cedar River amenities, will make the Waterloo metropolitan area a boating destination for persons of all skill levels.

- *Create a water trail along Black Hawk Creek-* Creating a water trail along Black Hawk Creek from Hudson to Hope Martin Park and connecting the Big Woods Lake to the Cedar Valley Water Trail would expand the existing water trail system and further emphasize the importance of scenic recreational opportunities. The water trail will most likely include access points, portages, and signage for paddlers.
- *Continue to expand Black Hawk County trail system-* Although Black Hawk County currently has an extensive trail network, the cities and County Conservation Board continue to strive to connect the trails and develop new trails through well traveled areas.
- *Complete American Discovery Trail in Black Hawk County-* Although the American Discovery Trail is almost entirely complete in Black Hawk County, a small section west of Hudson still needs to be developed. The American Discovery Trail is a nationally recognized recreation trail that will stretch across 15 states when complete.
- *Complete trail connections to the Rolling Prairie Trail-* In recent years development of the Rolling Prairie Trail has been spurred by numerous grants made available to Humboldt, Wright, Franklin, Butler, and Bremer Counties. The Regional Trail Plan includes the connection of the Cedar Valley Trails system to the Rolling Prairie Trail via the Highway 218 right-of-way from Waverly to Cedar Falls. When complete, the Trail will provide over 150 miles of non-motorized use between Pocahontas and Fayette counties.
- *Include handicapped accessibility to future projects where feasible-* Providing outdoor opportunities for persons of all skill levels and abilities is a key objective for Black Hawk County when developing new public establishments.
- *Connect Big Woods Lake to the Cedar River Water Trail-* Planned to complement the Cedar River Water Trail, the connection to the north end of Big Woods Lake would include the construction of a low-head dam, portage, and minimal excavation of Snag Creek if needed. This project would benefit users of both Big Woods Lake and the Cedar River Water Trail.
- *Connect Shaulis Road Trail to the Cedar Valley Nature Trail-* On the South side of Waterloo, Shaulis Road is anticipated to be extended to the east. This new construction will include the continued development of the Shaulis Road Trail. Although the right-of-way is in public ownership, additional funds will need to be sought to further connect this trail to the Cedar Valley Nature Trail via the trail along Highway 218.
- *Expand ATV opportunities-* With the assistance of previous grants, the Riverview Recreation Area was developed to include an ATV park. The ATV park has become a large draw for the recreation area, and expansion or new ATV park development will increase the marketability of Waterloo as a major ATV destination.
- *Expand equestrian opportunities-* Currently Black Hawk County has one incidental equestrian trail through Black Hawk Park and one designated equestrian trail through Hickory Hills Park. Although no new trails are being proposed at this time, the County Conservation Board will develop trails as they become available.

- *Expand bike trail from Big Woods Lake to Lake Street-* This section of trail would most likely utilize the shoulder of Lake Street to provide an on-road accommodation. Currently, Lake Street does not have sufficient shoulders to provide a safe pedestrian route.

**Focus Area 4: Expand:**

- a.) Environmental education**
- b.) Roadside vegetation opportunities**
- c.) Historic preservation initiatives.**

- *Iowater Program-* Educate local citizens and organizations by becoming involved in the Iowater program. As part of the program local residents will be encouraged to attend Iowater workshops and monitor water quality in their own areas.
- *A Watershed Awareness River Expedition (AWARE) Project-* Local efforts will be made to get the Cedar River (through Black Hawk County) on the Project AWARE clean-up list in the upcoming years. This week long volunteer clean-up project would remove non-native debris from the Cedar River to improve the overall water quality.
- *Litter program/campaign-* Keeping roadsides and open spaces clear of unwanted debris is an important component to draw in new visitors and keep the environment healthy. A litter program would be established to clean up the existing debris and educate citizens on the harmful effects of littering.
- *Utilize funding available through the Living Roadways Trust Fund*
  - *Replace outdated equipment for roadside plantings-* Much of the roadside planting equipment was purchased in the late 80s or early 90s with REAP assistance and have outlived the useful lifespan. Purchasing new equipment will enable better plantings and greater planting potential.
- *Evaluate need for a Roadside Vegetation Manager in Black Hawk County-* Currently, Black Hawk County does not have a Roadside Manager. An evaluation will be required to establish the need for a Manager and the responsibilities of the proposed Manager.
- *Increase awareness and education with water quality monitors*
  - *Develop area along Cedar River for citizens to see actual water quality and use gauges to show changes in water quality-* As part of an educational component, an area along the Cedar River would be developed to allow visitors to visibly see the changes in water quality over time with water samples taken from the river and gauges showing the current contamination levels of the river. The visuals will allow both children and adults to monitor the water quality and allow more interaction with the quality of the water that we depend on.
- *Coordinate with schools to educate students on green practices*

- *NRCS partnership with Hartman Reserve to educate students on water quality of Dry Run Creek*- One program has already been completed with all 5<sup>th</sup> grade classes residing in the Dry Run Creek watershed. The previous project was a success and future programs will continue to educate the youth on the importance of good water quality of the rivers and streams surrounding us.
- *Project Water Education for Teachers (WET)*- The Project WET curriculum is currently being used by staff at the Hartman Reserve Nature Center in Waterloo. An upcoming project includes using Dry Run Creek in Cedar Falls as an example to educate and involve students in water quality.

## **Focus Area 5: Expand and improve vertical infrastructure**

- *Gilbertville Depot*- The Gilbertville Depot is the only site that provides public facilities along the northern 16 miles of the Cedar Valley Nature Trail. Currently, the depot is not open during winter months and has been difficult to keep clean and open. Insulating and updating this facility will allow the public to use the depot year round and may allow a small business to serve the public at this location.
- *Hartman Reserve Nature Center*- Originally built in the early 1940's, the Hartman Reserve Nature Center was purchased by the Black Hawk County Conservation Board in 1976. The renovation project will include rebuilding the east wing to a two story layout and slightly increasing the footprint of the building. The additional space will allow for more exhibit space, a separate meeting room, increased technological abilities, and increased energy efficiency of the Reserve.
- *Whitewater course infrastructure*- In conjunction with the dam improvements in downtown Waterloo, additional whitewater infrastructure below the dam will include obstacles for whitewater enthusiasts. Additional whitewater infrastructure at Gateway Park in Cedar Falls may also be developed as part of future river restoration projects.
- *Waterloo Boathouse*- Currently, the Waterloo Boathouse is the home base for the Waterloo Rowing Club. Recent improvements have been made to the boathouse structure, but additional funds are needed for the riverfront access. The boating center is in need of a complete renovation including lighting, paving, a new river wall, and docks. With the anticipated increase in visitors to the River Renaissance projects and Cedar River, the boating center will be heavily used as an access point.
- *Trail bridges over the Cedar River (Evansdale/McFarlane)*- The largely popular Cedar Valley Nature Trail is connected to the Waterloo area via two trail bridges over the Cedar River. It was recently discovered that the trail bridge at McFarlane Park has a useful lifespan of 3-5 years and the trail bridge in Evansdale has an estimated 15-year lifespan. The 2008 Waterloo MPO TIP includes funding for a structural study of the bridges to determine the feasible options for repairing or replacing the two bridges.
- *Interpretive signage*- The metropolitan trail system will eventually connect virtually all of the metro area's natural, cultural and historical attractions, Prairie Pathways was developed to interpret the story of those attractions for both the local and regional

audience as well as developing a national audience. The vision for this project is to interpret sites, artifacts, people and events that have shaped the development of metropolitan Black Hawk County. A combination of kiosks, low profile exhibits and public art will be used to tell these stories along the trails.

- *Lake and river boat launches-* Numerous boating amenities are planned for the downtown Cedar Falls and Waterloo riverfronts and lakes in Black Hawk County. These attractions will be most beneficial if appropriate access is provided via additional boat launches throughout Black Hawk County.

## **Future Initiatives**

### **Long Term Maintenance:**

As detailed above, Black Hawk County provides numerous natural resource, cultural and recreational opportunities. Whether it is the lakes and rivers, miles of trail or museums and the arts, the end result is a quality of life that all can take pride in. Maintaining such a system takes a tremendous amount of resources in the form of people and funding. The combination of existing and planned facilities will place a further financial strain on each entity responsible for maintenance. Though there are several federal and state grant programs available for developing new projects, none exist for sustaining those projects other than those generated at the local level.

To ensure the long term viability of these recreational and cultural amenities, it is appropriate to identify a dedicated source of funds towards their maintenance. Possible solutions may include leveraging more private dollars, utilizing a portion of the one cent local option sales tax, creating a separate sales tax, expansion of the hotel/motel tax or securing funding from the Black Hawk County Gaming Association. We recognize that this will require extensive education and communication, but it is well worth the effort.

### **Cedar River:**

Over the years, the potential of the Cedar River as an economic development and recreational asset has largely been unrealized. Recent efforts, i.e., the River Renaissance and the Cedar River Water Trail, are a step in the right direction in terms of maximizing this resource. Recognizing the fast potential of the river and to build upon recent successes, discussions relating to the creation of a “Cedar River Authority” may be timely. A holistic approach to managing and marketing the river would benefit not just Black Hawk County but the Cedar Valley as a whole. Said efforts could follow the framework established for the development of the Cedar Valley Lakes Board, which was instrumental in the overall development of trails and the expansion of water related activities in the 1980s and 90s.



**BLACK HAWK COUNTY  
LAND USE POLICY STATEMENTS**

The Land Use Policy Statements are general guidelines within which development decisions shall be made. These Statements are not absolutes, nor are they law, however, they should be followed unless unique or mitigating circumstance exist that would make a specific proposal infeasible. Only when said circumstances are proven shall a deviation from these policies be acceptable.

1. It shall be a policy of Black Hawk County that only agricultural uses or those uses incidental to agriculture shall be allowed on prime land. Prime land in Black Hawk County is defined as soil with a Land Evaluation and Site Assessment (LESA) System of two hundred forty-two (242) or above.
2. It shall be a policy of Black Hawk County to encourage residential, commercial, and industrial development to occur within incorporated areas or to unincorporated areas that have access to municipal utilities. Development in the unincorporated areas of the county shall be directed toward existing areas that have been rezoned for residential, commercial, and industrial uses but are vacant, or to areas identified for such use on the Future Land Use Map.
3. It shall be a policy of Black Hawk County that residential and other non-agricultural uses shall be developed only on land that is capable of supporting them. Criteria used to determine the suitability of soil for residential or other uses will include, but not be limited to, soil and water limitations and major soil features such as soil permeability, subsurface drainage, flooding potential, CSR, shrink-swell capacity, and Land Evaluation (LE) score from the LESA System. Land with a LE score of below 40 shall be considered unsuitable for development.
4. It shall be a policy of Black Hawk County to preserve, promote, and maintain a greenbelt system along all river and drainage systems in Black Hawk County as an aid to prevent soil erosion, and to limit development on active floodplains.
5. It shall be a policy of Black Hawk County to promote the development of shelterbelts, soil erosion stabilization methods, and habitat areas and to preserve the natural areas of the county for future generations.
6. It shall be a policy of Black Hawk County to promote the preservation of critical areas of ecological, geological, historical, and environmental significance. This shall be achieved through identifying such areas, informing the public of their significance, and promoting private or public retention or acquisition for the sole purpose of their preservation and protection.
7. It shall be a policy of Black Hawk County to encourage coordination and cooperation between Black Hawk County and the incorporated cities within the county, especially within the two-mile radius around each city where powers and responsibilities are shared.
8. It shall be a policy of Black Hawk County to work with the Natural Resource Conservation Service to encourage individual stewardship of the soils and to encourage the conservation of the county's soil resources so that soil losses will be less than the allowable limits as established by state law.

Revised November 2005

Black Hawk County
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City Parks and Open Space

Recipient: Cedar Falls

FY	1998	Big Woods Lake Trail - Phase 1	\$149,089
FY	2004	Big Woods Lake, West Trail Dev.	\$100,000
FY	1999	Big Woods Trail - Phase 2	\$150,000
FY	2001	Lone Tree Road Trail Extension	\$120,820
FY	1991	West Lake Phase I Acquisition	\$150,000
FY	1993	West Lake Phase II Acquisition	\$110,000
FY	1994	West Lake Phase III Acquisition	\$129,000

Recipient: City of Cedar Falls

FY	2007	Big Woods Lake Campground, Phase II	\$150,000
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Recipient: Dunkerton

FY	1999	Charma Park Expansion & Development	\$44,986
FY	2001	Prairie Remnant Acquisition	\$6,850

Recipient: Evansdale

FY	1990	Meyers Lake	\$75,000
FY	1991	Meyers Lake Acquisition/Enhancement II	\$42,700

Recipient: Hudson

FY	1997	Sergeant Road Trail Extension	\$74,600
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Recipient: Waterloo

FY	1992	East Lake Trail Development	\$190,540
FY	1994	Riverside Trail Dev. & Acquisition	\$189,450
FY	2006	Riverview Recreation Area Enhancements	\$200,000
Total:			\$1,883,035

Conservation Education

Recipient: Friends of Hartman Res.

FY	2005	Lions in Iowa!	\$32,395
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Recipient: Friends of Hartman Reservoir

FY	2004	Hartman's After School Program	\$10,775
FY	2004	Lions in Iowa!	\$21,730

Recipient: Friends of Hartmann Reserve

FY	2006	Lions in Iowa!	\$17,136
FY	2006	Mussell Restoration	\$11,243

Recipient: Hartman Reserve, Black Hawk CCB

FY	1990	Broaden scope of Hartman Reserve Nat Ctr	\$11,633
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Recipient: Iowa Academy of Science

FY	2006	Project WET Preservice Workshops	\$26,626
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Recipient: UNI

FY	2005	Iowa 3 Rs Initiative	\$8,463
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FY	2005	Iowa's Neotropical Birds, Mason City	\$19,892
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FY	2005	Lost Landscape Prairie Project	\$45,558
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FY	2004	Waste Reduction Initiative	\$14,154
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Total:	\$219,605
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### County Conservation

Recipient: Black Hawk County Conservation Board

FY	1995	Black Hawk Creek Greenbelt Addition	\$52,000
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FY	1990	Cedar Valley Lake Project Addition	\$82,100
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FY	1991	Cedar Valley Lakes Project Additions	\$60,825
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FY	1997	Cedar Valley lakes Project Additions	\$18,600
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Recipient: County Special REAP Account

FY	1990	Per county allocations	\$9,086
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FY	1991	Per county allocations	\$12,415
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FY	1992	Per county allocations	\$6,121
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FY	1993	Per county allocations	\$4,917
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FY	1994	Per county allocations	\$4,288
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FY	1995	Per county allocations	\$4,587
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FY	1996	Per county allocations	\$5,527
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FY	1997	Per county allocations	\$6,054
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FY	1998	Per county allocations	\$5,992
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FY	1999	Per county allocations	\$5,785
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FY	2000	Per county allocations	\$6,695
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FY	2001	Per county allocations	\$6,759
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FY	2002	Per county allocations	\$4,680
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FY	2003	Per county allocations	\$183
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FY	2004	Per county allocations	\$6,782
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FY	2005	Per county allocations	\$6,705
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FY	2006	Per county allocations	\$7,007
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FY	1990	Per population allocations	\$39,515
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FY	1991	Per population allocations	\$56,213
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FY	1992	Per population allocations	\$27,725
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FY	1993	Per population allocations	\$22,340
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FY	1994	Per population allocations	\$20,890
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FY	1995	Per population allocations	\$22,283
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FY	1996	Per population allocations	\$25,935
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FY	1997	Per population allocations	\$28,458
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FY	1998	Per population allocations	\$28,598
FY	1999	Per population allocations	\$26,479
FY	2000	Per population allocations	\$30,616
FY	2001	Per population allocations	\$30,918
FY	2002	Per population allocations	\$20,848
FY	2003	Per population allocations	\$811
FY	2004	Per population allocations	\$29,950
FY	2005	Per population allocations	\$29,817
FY	2006	Per population allocations	\$31,000
Total:			\$789,504

#### Historical Resource Development

Recipient: Bennington No. 4 School Bd. Of Directors

FY	2001	Bennington No. 4 School Restoration	\$5,000
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Recipient: Cedar Falls Historical Society

FY	2006	Design Services for the Ice House Museum	\$3,778
FY	2006	Little Red Schoolhouse Door Restoration	\$500
FY	2005	Probate and Will Archival Project	\$4,500
FY	2004	Victorian Home & Wyth House Mus. Preser	\$2,239

Recipient: Cultural Division, City of Cedar Falls

FY	2005	Pres. the Cedar Falls Art Col.at Hearst	\$13,586
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Recipient: Dan Tindall

FY	2005	Black Hawk Hotel Renovation Phase 2	\$22,500
FY	2004	Blackhawk Hotel Renovation Phase 1	\$25,500

Recipient: Grout Museum of History & Science

FY	1997	"Engine of the Heartland" Exhibit	\$9,000
FY	1992	Library Expansion & Consolidation	\$4,540
FY	1996	Waterloo:Engine of the Heartland Exhibit	\$14,635

Recipient: H.W. Grout Trust, Waterloo

FY	1993	Computerize collection management system	\$12,383
FY	1999	HVAC Study & Monitoring Equipment	\$5,750

Recipient: Hearst Center for the Arts, Cedar Falls

FY	1994	Collect poetry works of James Hearst	\$4,700
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Recipient: Hudson Public Library

FY	1999	Microfilm the Hudson Herald	\$6,750
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Recipient: Rensselaer Russell House Museum

FY	1998	Window Restoration and Light Control	\$6,650
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Recipient: University of Northern Iowa

FY	2001	Books and Costumes of rural schools	\$4,484
FY	2002	UNI Student Newspaper Preservation	\$4,500
Recipient: Waterloo Historic Preservation Comm.			
FY	2006	Waterloo Comp. Hist. Pres. Plan 2006	\$25,000
Recipient: Waterloo Museum of Art			
FY	1996	Collection Conservation Project	\$8,000
FY	1993	Develop & renovate collection storage	\$10,000
Recipient: Waterloo Public Library			
FY	1992	Waterloo City Directories microfilming	\$5,200
FY	1991	Waterloo Hist. Map & Photo Pres. & Disp.	\$2,500
Total:			\$201,695

#### Historical Resource Development Program

Recipient: Alan R. Brase			
FY	1994	Litchfield Country-Residence Restoration	\$20,000
Recipient: Cedar Falls Historical Society			
FY	2002	"R" Little Red Schoolhouse Windows	\$4,668
FY	1992	Archives & Clothing Collections Pres.	\$8,000
FY	1993	Improved lighting - Ice House Museum	\$2,805
FY	1990	Little Red Schoolhouse Museum Repairs	\$2,000
FY	1991	Repairing Ice House	\$10,000
Recipient: Friends of Hartman Reserve			
FY	1990	Hartman Reserve Nature Center Exhibits	\$6,667
Recipient: Grout Museum of History & Science			
FY	1990	High Density, Museum Quality Storage	\$30,000
FY	1995	Industrial Hall Design	\$8,000
FY	1991	Industrial Hall Permanent Exhibition	\$35,000
Recipient: H.W. Grout Trust, Waterloo			
FY	2000	Restore two historic flags	\$11,890
Recipient: Hearst Center for the Arts, Cedar Falls			
FY	1995	Solar window film, update HVAC, storage	\$4,000
Recipient: Rensselaer Russell House Museum			
FY	1991	Restore & repair house	\$7,200
FY	1993	Restore Grand Piano	\$7,704
Recipient: Resources Plus, Waterloo			
FY	1995	Install environmental monitoring equip.	\$2,500
Recipient: University of Northern Iowa Museum			

FY	1991	Interpretation of Iowa Geology & Ornith.	\$17,000
Recipient: Waterloo Museum of Art			
FY	1998	Grant Wood Paintings Conservation	\$12,162
			Total: \$189,596

#### Land Management

Recipient: Cedar River @ George Wyth

FY	2000	Fish habitat/bank stabilization	\$37,928
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Recipient: George Wyth State Park

FY	1994	Access road near existing boat ramp	\$17,510
FY	1994	Fishing access entrance & parking lot	\$7,217
FY	1997	Paving of dump station road & parking	\$17,354
FY	2001	Playground equipment	\$11,325
FY	1994	Repair water line	\$5,366
FY	2000	Replace lift station	\$22,370
FY	1998	Shower & Toilet Building	\$17,942
FY	1997	Shower and toilet building	\$141,007
			Total: \$278,019

#### Open Space

Recipient: George Wyth State Park

FY	1998	Trail development	\$1,641
			Total: \$1,641

#### Roadside Vegetation

Recipient: Black Hawk County

FY	1991	Mulch and tackifier demonstration	\$9,324
FY	1992	Seed Propagation	\$9,773
FY	1991	Special Equipment	\$10,000

Recipient: Cedar Falls

FY	1992	Gateway Planting	\$10,872
FY	1993	Gateway planting	\$18,415
FY	1994	Gateway planting	\$503
FY	1995	Gateway trail	\$5,089
FY	1996	Greenhill Road enhancement	\$10,700
FY	1995	Hwy 58 - University Ave. Gateway	\$2,452
FY	1997	Roadside Enhancement	\$1,386
FY	1992	Seed Propagation	\$1,664

Recipient: City of Cedar Falls

FY	2005	City bike trail prairie enhancement	\$3,600
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Recipient: DOT

FY	1997	Butterfly garden and prairie-Cedar Falls	\$745
FY	1994	Hwy 218 at Waterloo-Gateway enhancemen	\$725
Recipient: Hartmann Reserve Nature Center			
FY	1995	Educational plantings	\$403
Recipient: Hudson			
FY	1995	Gateway planting	\$1,295
Recipient: University of Northern Iowa			
FY	2005	Engineering w/Native Vegetation Workshop	\$2,759
FY	2005	Fire Management Workshop	\$5,346
FY	2005	Legislated Funding	\$75,000
FY	2005	Printing Materials	\$10,889
FY	2005	Roadside Conference 2005	\$6,480
FY	1992	Seed Propagation	\$4,350
Recipient: Waterloo			
FY	2000	Demonstration plantings	\$5,180
FY	1995	Franklin Neighborhood Gateway	\$767
Recipient: Waterloo/UNI Grout Museum			
FY	2001	Gateway planting	\$4,709
Total:			\$202,426

#### Soil and Water Enhancement

Recipient: Soil and Water Conservation District

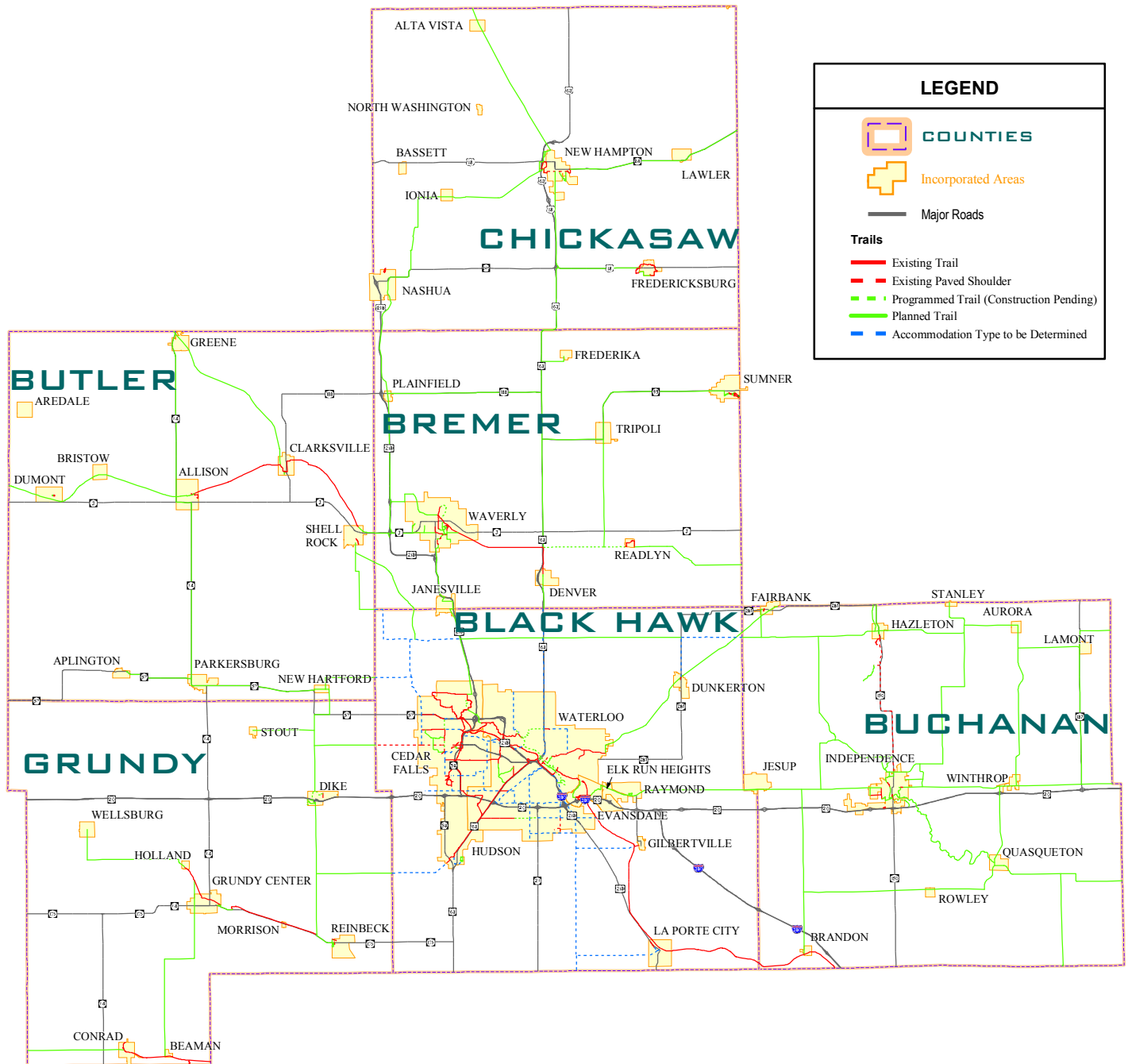
FY	1990	Allocations for practices	\$3,601
FY	1991	Allocations for practices	\$5,688
FY	1992	Allocations for practices	\$5,393
FY	1993	Allocations for practices	\$5,261
FY	1994	Allocations for practices	\$13,799
FY	1995	Allocations for practices	\$3,874
FY	1996	Allocations for practices	\$7,349
FY	1997	Allocations for practices	\$5,615
FY	1998	Allocations for practices	\$2,661
FY	1999	Allocations for practices	\$4,532
FY	2000	Allocations for practices	\$1,875
FY	2001	Allocations for practices	\$2,983
FY	2002	Allocations for practices	\$5,481
FY	2003	Allocations for practices	\$698
FY	2004	Allocations for practices	\$7,968
FY	2005	Allocations for practices	\$7,940
FY	2006	Allocations for practices	\$8,041
FY	1992	Forestry & native vegetation	\$1,523

FY	1993	Forestry & native vegetation	\$1,136
FY	1994	Forestry & native vegetation	\$5,704
FY	1995	Forestry & native vegetation	\$1,400
FY	1996	Forestry & native vegetation	\$1,908
FY	1998	Forestry & native vegetation	\$1,299
FY	2000	Forestry & native vegetation	\$1,811
FY	2001	Forestry & native vegetation	\$1,610
FY	2004	Forestry & native vegetation	\$1,992
FY	2005	Forestry & native vegetation	\$1,985
FY	2006	Forestry & native vegetation	\$2,010
Total:			\$115,137

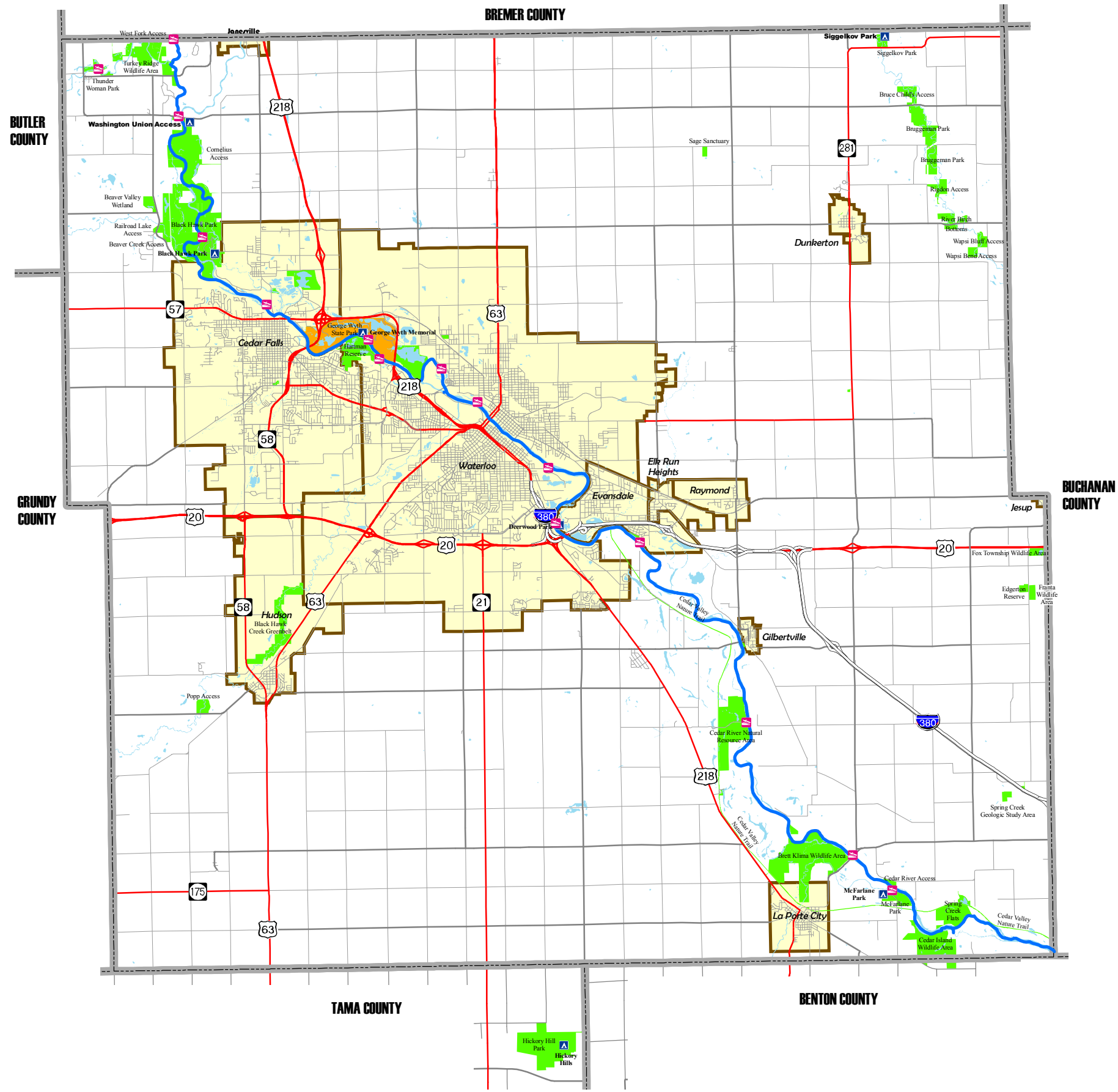
Total REAP Allocations in Black Hawk County	\$3,880,658
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# Iowa Northland Regional Trail Plan

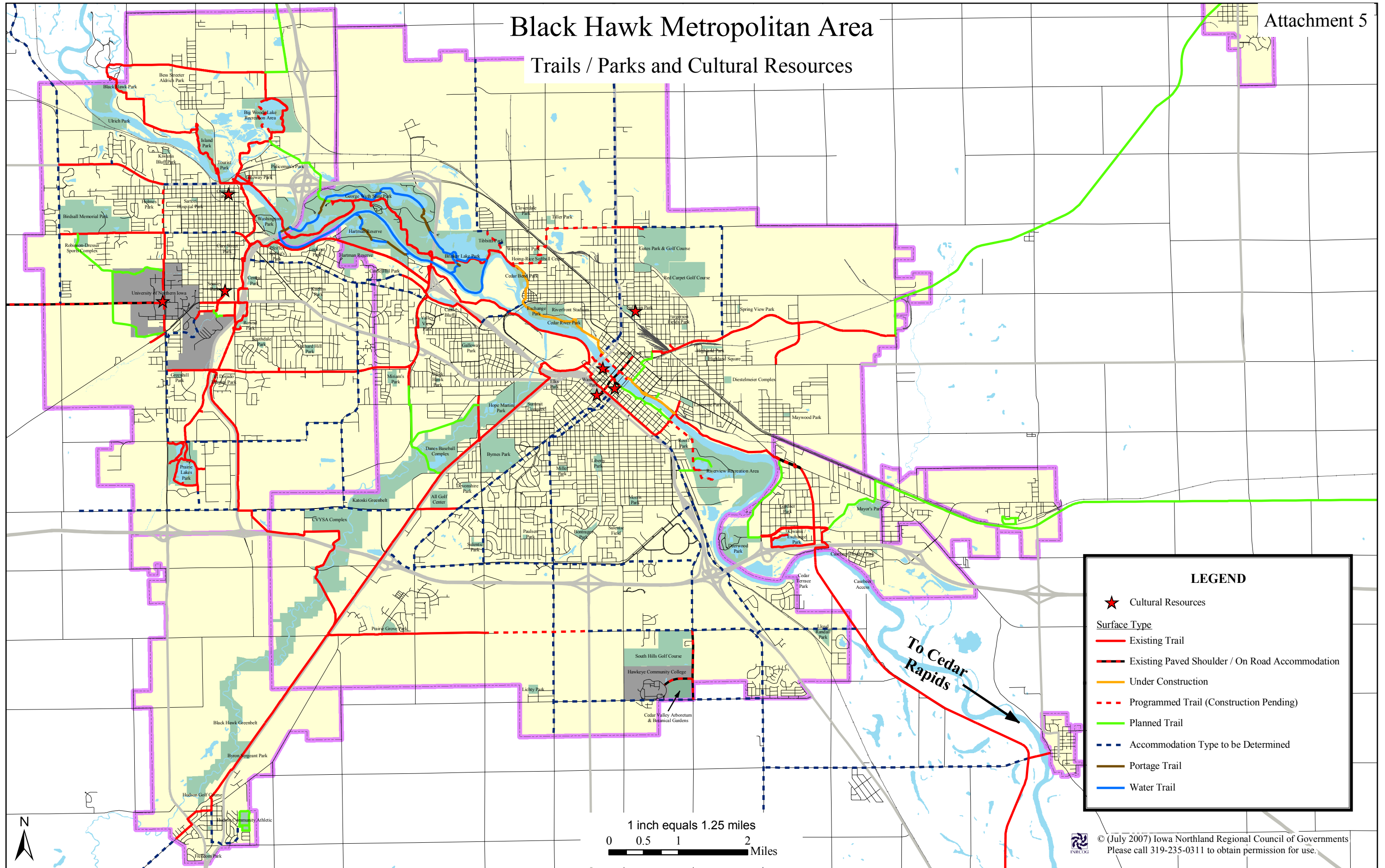


# Black Hawk County Parks and Recreation Areas



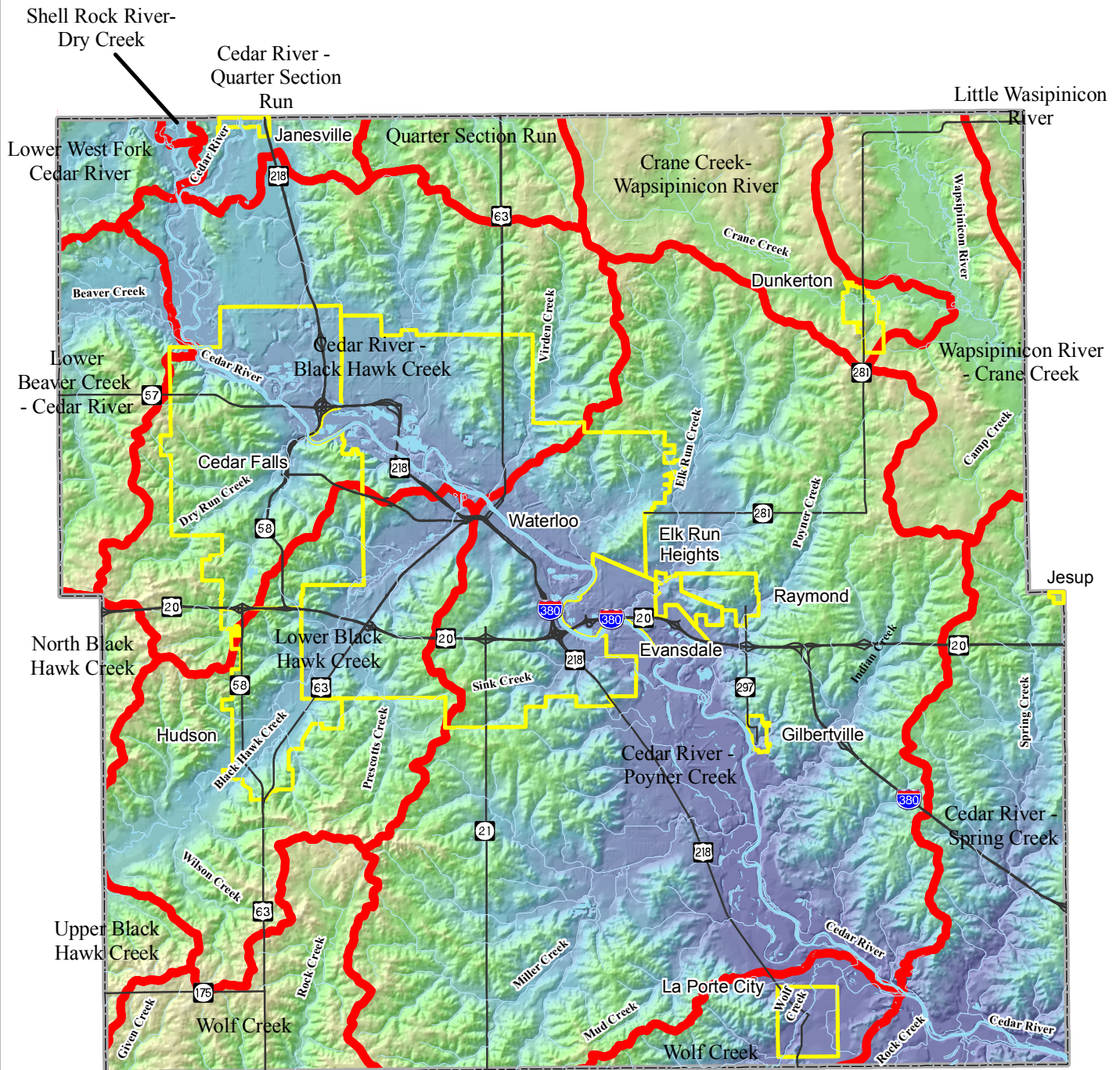
# Black Hawk Metropolitan Area

## Trails / Parks and Cultural Resources





# Black Hawk County Watersheds



## LEGEND

- Watershed
- City Limit Boundaries

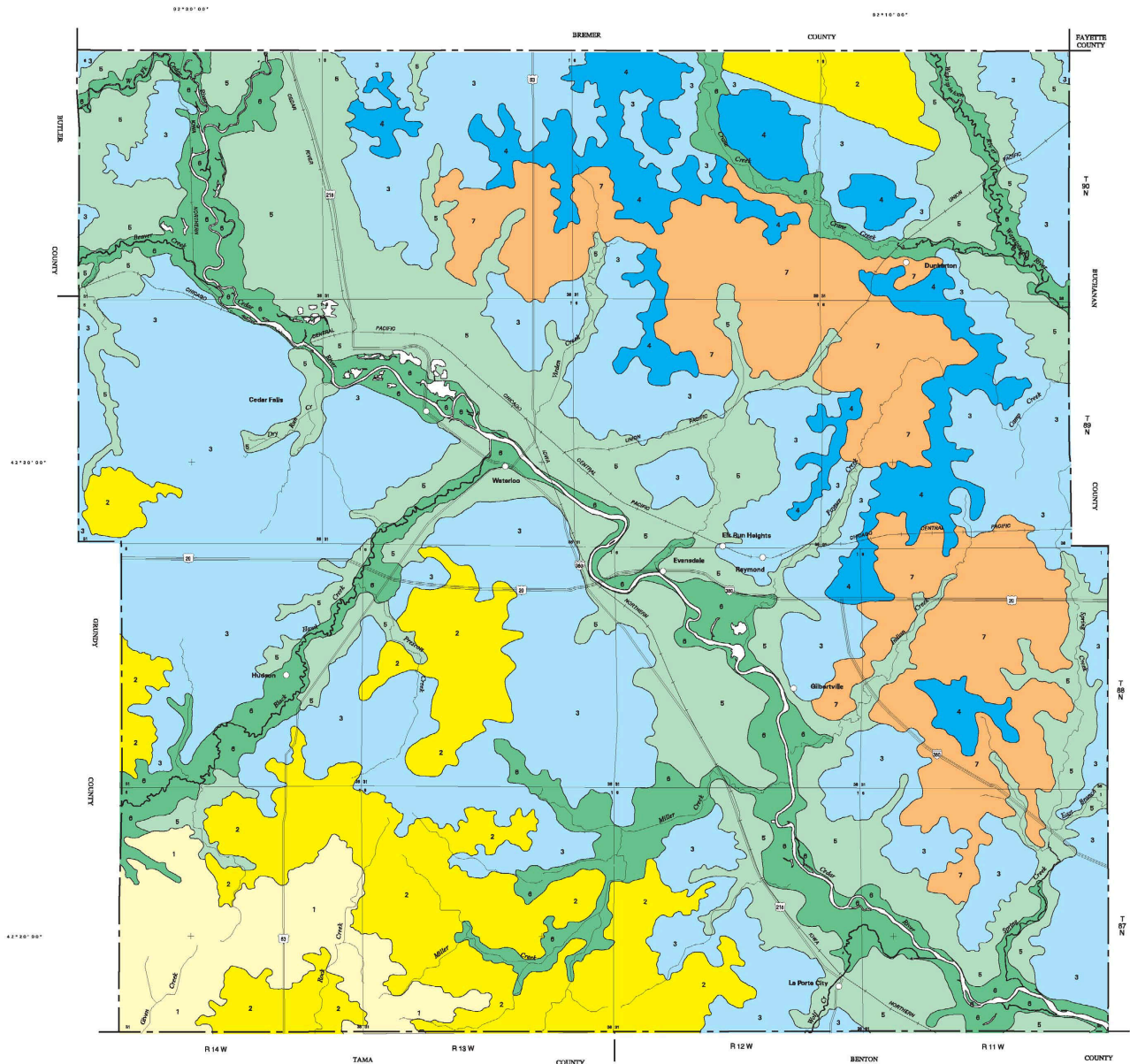


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## SOIL LEGEND

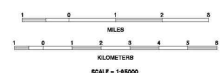
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  - 2 Dinsdale-Klinger-Maxfield
  - 3 Kenyon-Clyde-Floyd
  - 4 Readlyn-Tripoli
  - 5 Sparta-Finchford-Saude
  - 6 Coland-Spillville
  - 7 Marquis-Clyde-Floyd
- Compiled 2001

## SECTIONALIZED TOWNSHIP

6	5	4	3	2	1
7	8	9	10	11	12
18	17	16	15	14	13
19	20	21	22	23	24
30	29	28	27	26	25
31	32	33	34	35	36

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
 IOWA AGRICULTURE AND HOME ECONOMICS EXPERIMENT STATION  
 COOPERATIVE EXTENSION SERVICE,  
 IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY  
 DIVISION OF SOIL CONSERVATION,  
 IOWA DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
 AND LAND STEWARDSHIP

### GENERAL SOIL MAP BLACK HAWK COUNTY, IOWA



## One-Year Financial Plan

### **City Parks and Open Spaces:**

The *Big Woods Lake Campground Phase II* provides for hard-surfacing the roads and parking, as well as materials for construction of two cabins, 54 picnic tables and fire rings, planting of 60 hardwood trees, grass seeding and signage. In Fiscal Year 2007, the City of Cedar Falls received a REAP award of \$150,000 for this work.

### **Conservation Education:**

The *Pay it Forward: Educating Educators about Waste To Reap Citizenry Skills in Students* project will be administered by the University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy & Environmental Education. The UNI CEEE will conduct a two-year interdisciplinary initiative that will reach an estimated 13,000 students. The project staff will introduce conservation education lesson plans to 600-700 K-12 educators through conferences and meetings. Educators will be introduced to one to three lesson plans, and most will receive free classroom-ready conservation education resources. Staff will also offer two *Waste Reduction: Addressing the Overlooked "R"* graduate courses for 60-70 teachers (30-35 teachers/course). The total project cost is \$57,947 with a total of \$24,686 in REAP allocations.

The *Prairies in Progress* project by the University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy & Environmental Education will be an additional workshop to increase knowledge and skill of prairie establishment and maintenance. To meet this need, Environmental Issues Instruction program is holding a one-credit hour workshop. Twenty-six of the teachers enrolled in the current Iowa's Roadside Prairies workshops wish to enroll in this workshop. The intent is to enhance and expand the teachers' knowledge and appreciation of prairie development, maintenance and management. The total project cost for this 7 month project is \$56,779 with \$26,117 in REAP allocations.

The *Service-Learning: Moving Environmental Issues Beyond the Classroom* program, by University of Northern Iowa Center for Energy & Environmental Education, will conduct a course for K-12 teachers with a goal to give 44 teachers and 880 students hands-on involvement with environmental issues within their communities. The graduate credit course requires teachers and their students coordinate environmental projects where they are of service to their school and community. The total project cost for this one year program is \$63,004 with \$10,695 in REAP allocations.

The *Salute to Songbirds* exhibit is a three-year project with a total project cost of \$103,804 and \$53,250 in REAP allocations. Hartman Reserve Nature Center will bring the traveling exhibit to Iowa from the Effie Yeaw Nature Center in Sacramento, California. The exhibit will educate, motivate, enlighten and inform the public about the plight of migratory songbirds. Hartman Reserve Nature

Center will oversee the exhibit's three-year site itinerary and provide each nature center with training on how to use the exhibit.

The *Lions in Iowa!* Exhibit has an FY2008 allocation of \$17,136. Hartman Reserve Nature Center will oversee the exhibit, Mountain Lions! In Iowa, five-site itinerary and provide each nature center with training on how to use the exhibit and curriculum.

The *Mussel Restoration* project administered by the staff at Hartman Reserve Nature Center was a hands-on project totaling \$23,600. In 2006, \$11,243 were allocated for this project. The Nature Center currently has approximately \$5,000 remaining in the program. These remaining funds will go towards staff salaries for this project and another possible mussel release within the next year.

The *Roadside Prairies* project under the University of Northern Iowa will partner with Environmental Issues Instruction, the Living Roadway Trust Fund, Trees Forever and the Tallgrass Prairie Center to use materials already published by the Living Roadway Trust Fund. They will be used to train approximately 50 teachers and others to understand and appreciate the history and take action toward conservation of Iowa's vegetation. The total project cost is \$110,902, with \$33,863 in REAP allocations, for this 18 month project.

The *Iowa Project WET Preservice Workshops* will be administered by the Iowa Academy of Science. The Academy will provide workshops for 400 new pre-service educators using Project WET (Water Education for Teachers). Pre-service teachers will learn about Iowa's water resources and issues while experiencing activities developed with sound environmental education methods. This project is a single year project with a total project cost of \$37,410, and \$26,626 in REAP allocations.

The *Iowa's Roadside Prairies* project, under the University of Northern Center for Energy and Environmental Education, will hold additional workshops on Iowa's Roadside Prairies in November 2007 and again in early 2008 for two more groups of teachers (see above). Iowa Environmental Issues Instruction program staff will partner with the Living Roadway Trust Fund, Trees Forever and the Tallgrass Prairie Center. They will be used to train approximately 50 teachers and others to understand and appreciate the history and take action toward conservation of Iowa's vegetation. The total project cost for this 18 month project is \$117,024, with a total REAP allocation of \$36,870.

#### **County Conservation:**

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board anticipates receiving approximately \$50,656 in FY2008 allocations. If needed, all non-programmed funds will go towards the acquisition of 177 acres to serve as an addition to the Brett Klima Wildlife Area. Unspent monies will be kept in reserve for future resource management projects.

An additional \$4,500 has been budgeted for FY2008 for an *Inventory and Management Plan* for the Cedar Island Wildlife Area. This land is currently owned by the County and managed by the Conservation Board. The natural resource inventory will be used establish a Management Plan for the Area, and if appropriate, a State Preserve Status will be applied for.

**DNR Land Management:**

Black Hawk County is anticipating no DNR Land Management Funds.

**DNR Open Space Acquisition and Development:**

Black Hawk County is anticipating no DNR Open Space Acquisition and Development Funds.

**Historical Resource Development Program:**

*Blackhawk Hotel, Phase 1:* Efforts within this project will concentrate on the exterior rehabilitation of the various facades of the Blackhawk Hotel. This phase includes the structural and aesthetic rehabilitation of the hotel's gables on the east facade, the cap parapets on all facades, and the repair and repainting of the hotel's rear and side facades. Dan Tindall was awarded this grant in 2004 and has \$7,137 remaining in grant funds to be reimbursed. The original grant award was \$25,500.

*Blackhawk Hotel, Phase 2:* Efforts within this project will concentrate on two major elements: (1) the cladding on the mansard roof and its integral gutter/soffit system; and (2) the chimneys. Dan Tindall was awarded this grant in 2005 in the amount of \$22,500. No funds have been reimbursed yet.

*Probate and Will Archive:* The Cedar Falls Historical Society was awarded this grant in 2005 and has \$1,134 remaining in grant funds to be reimbursed. The total grant award was \$4,500. The purpose of this project is to create an archival work and storage space that meets professional standards to house the Cedar Falls Historical Society's collection of local probates, wills, court dockets and newspapers. Many of these records are from Cedar Falls' earliest settlers and include 100 years of Cedar Falls newspapers. The completion of this project will enable staff to preserve these resources for historic and genealogical research and offer public access through improved cataloging and housing.

*Grant's Farm:* Waterloo Center for the Arts will develop and produce a permanent 700 square foot hands-on exhibition for children and families which interprets the museum's collection of works by Grant Wood and other American Regionalist artists. This project was awarded in 2007 in the amount of \$28,500.

*FFA Historical and Ag Museum Artifact Preservation:* City of La Porte City received this grant in 2007 in the amount of \$3,732. This project includes purchase and installation of an air conditioner and elevator. The air conditioner will allow museum staff to regulate temperature and humidity levels of its storage



area, while the elevator will make the basement ADA compliant and easily transport larger artifacts that are too heavy to be physically carried up the stairs.

*Fire Station and Jail Rehabilitation:* The City of La Porte City received this grant in 2007 in the amount of \$17,449. This project proposes replacing a leaking roof and faulty wiring within the former fire station and jail house, as listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Completing this work will allow the City to preserve the interior and restore the structure that is significant to the community of La Porte City.

### **Roadside Vegetation:**

The Black Hawk County Conservation Board is anticipating no Roadside Vegetation Funds.

The Iowa Roadside Vegetation Management (IRVM) office at the University of Northern Iowa (UNI) receives grant allocations under the Iowa Living Roadways Trust Fund. Approximately half of what is in the Living Roadway Trust Fund (LRTF) each year comes from the REAP Roadside Vegetation program (3% of REAP funds).

Current projects include the *Annual Roadside Conference* that will take place on September 13 and 14. Total LRTF allocations for the project are \$8,316 with \$8,127 remaining.

*Iowa Roadside Vegetation Management Program Educational Materials* received a total allocation of \$10,888.56 from the LRTF with a remaining balance of \$6,331 to be spent by December of 2007.

The *Prescribed Burn Refresher Training* received total project allocations of \$810 from the LRTF with a remaining balance of \$176 to be utilized by December of 2007.

An additional \$105,000 is allocated to the UNI IRVM office for activities within the office, staff salaries, and administration costs for the *Iowa Ecotype Project*.

### **Soil and Water Enhancement:**

The Black Hawk Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD) is anticipating \$17,229 for a tree/prairie planting program. This program will involve cost sharing with local land owners for the purchase and restoration of trees/shrubs for windbreak purposes or the establishment of new timber areas. This program will also fund native grass plantings. The program requires land owners to pay the upfront costs of planting the trees with up to 75% reimbursement from the SWCD.